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THE ARITHMETIC OF WAR.

It is said, that neither facts nor figures will lie ; but it is very difficult to credit, or adequately conceive, even the well-attested statistics of property and life sacrificed by war. When such a philosopher as Dick, or such a statesman as Burke, brings before us his estimate of the havoc which this custom has made of human life in all past time, it seems utterly incredible, almost inconceivable ; and still more are we staggered by the long and formidable array of figures employed to denote the sum total of money squandered on this system of human butchery.

Just glance at a recent estimate. Baron Von Reden, perhaps the ablest statistician of the age, and withal no believer in the success of our cause, tells us, in a recent work of his, that the Continent of Europe alone now has full four millions of men under arms, more than half its male population between the ages of twenty and thirty ; and that the support of these immense preparations for war, together with the interest and cost of collection and disbursement on the aggregate of its war-debts, amounts to more than *one thousand millions of dollars a year*. Let any man try to form an adequate conception of what is meant by either of these sums, and he will soon give up the effort in despair.

Take the Baron's estimate of war-debts now resting on the States of Europe, — no less than \$9,418,000,000. How shall we realize what this enormous sum means ? Shall we count it ? At the rate of sixty dollars a minute, ten hours every day, for 300 days in a year, it would take more than 800 years, some twenty generations or more, barely to count the present war-debts of Europe alone.

Let us look for a moment at what England wasted for war purposes in 127 years, from the Revolution in 1688, to the downfall of Napoleon in 1815. The sum total squandered in actual war, besides all that she spent upon her war system in the intervals of peace, was \$10,150,000,000 ; and, if we add the interest on her war-debts contracted in that period, the grand total will reach nearly \$17,000,000,000 ! At sixty dollars a minute for ten hours in a day, or \$36,000 a day, and 300 days in a year, it would require more than 1,574 years to count it all ! Add an average of \$80,000,000 a year for the current expenses of her war establishment since 1815, an aggregate of \$2,800,000,000, in these thirty-five years ; and we have a sum total of nearly *twenty thousand millions* ! No wonder that the Old World is reeling and staggering under the burden of such enormous expenditures for war purposes.

Let us try some other modes of conceiving what is meant by these figures. Twenty thousand millions of dollars ! It is nearly thirty times as much as all the coin now supposed to be in the world ; and, if these 20,000,000,000 were all in silver dollars, and placed in rows, they would belt the globe more than 160 times !